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Message Text

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12
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-11 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6761
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 12283

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, ELAP, IT
SUBJECT: MINISTER OF MERCHANT MARINE'S VIEWS ON CISL SECESSION

1. IN A CONVERSATION ON SEPTEMBER 3, DIONIGI COPPO, MINISTER OF MERCHANT MARINE AND FORMER MINISTER OF LABOR, INDICATED TO ME HIS PERSONAL SKEPTICISM ABOUT TENTATIVE PLANS BY MEMBERS OF THE CISL OPPOSITION TO SECEDE AND FORM A NEW LABOR FEDERATION. HE FELT THAT SIRONI'S RECENT DEATH HAD DEALT A SUBSTANTIAL BLOW TO THE ALREADY SHAKY OUTLOOK FOR FORMING A VIABLE NEW ORGANIZATION. HE THOUGHT IT MORE LIKELY THAT AN EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO REPLACE STORTI WITH SOMEONE MORE AGREEABLE TO THE OPPOSITION ELEMENTS, SUCH AS CISL SECRETARY FRANCO MARINI (RECENTLY RETURNED FROM AN IVP VISIT TO THE US).

2. IN FACT, HE SHOWED ME A DRAFT OF A LETTER HE PLANNED TO SEND TO DC PARTY SECRETARY FANFANI PROPOSING STORTI'S OUSTER THROUGH THE ARTIFICE OF OFFERING HIM A GOVERNMENTAL SINECURE.

3. COMMENT: AS A VETERAN PARTICIPANT IN THE ITALIAN LABOR MOVEMENT, COPPO'S VIEWS ON CURRENT LABOR DEVELOPMENTS AND PROSPECTS ARE ALWAYS OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST. THERE ARE OTHER INDICATIONS
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THAT THE CISL OPPOSITION HAS NOT YET DECIDED DEFINITELY ON

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SCHISM AND IS CLOSELY MONITORING DEVELOPMENTS. VOLPE

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